

FRIENDS EMPLOYEES PARDON FOR LEIB

Pals of Former Political Boss
Storm Office of State Board
of Pardons

BIG LIST OF APPEALS

Friends of William S. Leib, one-time political boss of Schuylkill County, made a spectacular fight for his freedom at Harrisburg today before the State Board of Pardons.

Holding its last session before the advent of the Pinchot Administration, the board was overwhelmed with pardon applications. Attorneys and relatives of 100 convicts crowded about the offices.

More than 1500 letters from all parts of the State, urging a pardon for Leib, were received. Voluminous petitions containing thousands of signatures showed a systematic campaign to influence the board toward leniency.

The petitions bore the signatures of W. C. T. U. officials, bank and fraternal organization officials, members of the Central Labor Union and many of the members of the Schuylkill county bar.

Leib, while a State employee, was convicted of forging three checks, totaling \$10,000, and was sentenced to five years on April 10, 1920, and began serving the term on June 1, 1921, after fighting the case up to the United States Supreme Court.

Marcia Seeks Pardon
Jacob "Bub" Marcia, convicted as the slayer of Patrolman Eppley in the Fifth Ward election riot of September, 1917, and John Costello, also a member of the same mob, are now in the State Prison, awaiting pardon through counsel.

Marcia's real name, it developed, is James Sagula. He was serving a term of five years in the State Prison, but was sentenced only to six months in the House of Correction and later he was rewarded with a job as agent in the Department of Justice, said Marcia.

In considering the application of Lucius Ross, a Negro, who was sentenced to death in this city for killing his wife, Lieutenant Governor Redfern, a member of the board, criticized Philadelphia courts which "pass the buck" to the pardon board.

Ross pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced by a visiting judge. He has been in the death house six months. It was understood the trial judge acquiesced in the move to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

Rosier Case Mentioned
Josiah Smith, former District Attorney of Delaware County, counsel for Ross, mentioned the Rosier case, while presenting the application.

Rosier, a client had slain under great provocation and that he might have won acquittal had he stood trial. Members of the board indicated the case would be considered.

The application made for John D'Orazio, a former employee of the American Bank and Trust Company, Broad street and Passyunk avenue, was supported by Assistant District Attorney Fox.

D'Orazio was convicted of embezzling \$81,200 from the bank and was sentenced on October 14, 1921, to two to five years in the Eastern Penitentiary. He told the Court the prisoner had been dealt with leniently by the Court. His method of embezzlement was unusually clever and difficult to uncover.

The application for D'Orazio's pardon was made by his mother, Mrs. Conchetta D'Orazio, who said that she has nine children and that D'Orazio is a good man and that she has no other support.

Seeker Son's Freedom
"My boy's freedom so he can work and support us would be the best Christmas present I could wish for," Mrs. D'Orazio said.

One applicant who, it is thought, will stand a good chance of gaining his freedom in time to spend Christmas day with his aged mother is Henry Webber, a convict in the Eastern Penitentiary.

Webber is the oldest prisoner in point of time served in Warden McKenty's hospital. He has been there twenty-seven years.

Aged Mother Appeals
He was convicted in Reading in 1895 of wife murder and was sentenced to hang, but the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Webber is now in his fifties, but his mother is still living and it is the wish of his family that he should be pardoned.

Despite the long years he has been in the penitentiary, Webber has never had a black mark against his name. Warden McKenty considers him the most model prisoner in the institution and has made him a "general trusty" with full liberty to move about the prison wherever he desires to go.

Letters urging a pardon for Harry B. Bora, Jr., convicted of a daring jewelry robbery at the McQueen jewelry store, then at 1431 Walnut street, were received from United States Senator Edgar of New Jersey, Mayor of Atlantic City, and Prosecutor E. C. Gaskill, of Atlantic County.

Born on October 29, 1910, was sentenced to eight to ten years. He applied last year for a pardon, but it was refused last June after the Board held it under advisement for seven months.

Pleads for Life-guard
Mayor Bader wrote that Bora had been a life-guard at Atlantic City. He promised to look after the young man personally if he is pardoned. He will be given a job as life-guard, Bader wrote. The Atlantic City Mayor and others blamed his predicament on a bad company and said he came from a highly esteemed family.

Mr. Beideman suggested that the trial judge be asked to parole Leonard Ross of this city who is serving a term for his part in the theft of a truck loaded with liquor. Toy's counsel replied that the consent of the private prosecutor is necessary for a parole and that the truck owner refuses to sign for Toy until he is paid \$2750, the value of the stolen whisky.

Mr. Beideman remarked that Philadelphia judges have no right to use the courts as a collection agency. He indicated Toy may be pardoned.

The board voted to recommend a pardon for three to five years in the Eastern Penitentiary for entering to steal.

John McKenty, parole officer at the penitentiary, said Ripley is very ill and cannot live long.

ABOLITION OF SHIP BOARD PROPOSED

Bill Introduced by Senator King
Would Transfer Functions to
Commerce Department

FIGHT IN SENATE RESUMED

Washington, Dec. 20.—While forces supporting the Administration Shipping Bill and the Norris agricultural financing measure continued their struggle for dominance in the Senate, the former measure was subjected to another indirect attack in the form of a bill introduced by Senator King of Tennessee and King of Utah.

Senator McKellar struck at the vitals of the Shipping Bill with an amendment proposing elimination of the entire Government-owned section.

Abolition of the Shipping Board and the transfer of its functions to the Department of Commerce was proposed in the bill introduced by Senator King, who is expected to urge it as a substitute for the Shipping Bill in the hope of gaining the support of the Ship Bill opponents who have been urging their own measure.

Abolition of Government operation of Government-owned tonnage until the ships can be disposed of.

POLISH ASSEMBLY TO NAME PRESIDENT

Morawski Thought to Be Choice of
Unpopular Nationalists

Warsaw, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—The Polish National Assembly was called upon today to elect a President to succeed Dr. Gabriel Narutowicz, who was assassinated last Saturday.

At an early hour this morning no definite candidate had appeared. The Nationalists, who are the most unpopular in the Diet as the German Conservatives are the killing of Narutowicz, have again failed to form a bloc with the Whites Party to elect a president by a purely Polish vote.

It was believed that they might advance Prof. Morawski, a member of the university, or that they would support the most acceptable radical candidate. The latter party was considering M. Vojciechowski, General Sikorski, who took over the premiership, and General Zelinski.

The trial of Narutowicz for the assassination of President Narutowicz last Saturday was set for December 29 before a civil tribunal. A six-weeks period of mourning has been prescribed for the military, while the civil authorities will be in mourning for two weeks.

BABY BONUS OFFERED FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT

West Virginia Company Plans 'New
Arrival' Bank Account

Parkersburg, W. Va., Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—The West Virginia Company, every baby born to an employee during the year 1922 was the Christmas gift of the Monongahela Power and Railway Company to its hundreds of workers throughout West Virginia, company officials announced today.

The company will present each babe with a bank book containing an initial deposit of \$5 just as soon as the new arrival's name has been received at headquarters.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—Veterans of the Civil War, widows of veterans and Civil War nurses probably will receive Christmas presents from the Government in the form of increased pensions as the result of an agreement reached by conferees on the Bureau pension bill.

The bill was passed by the Senate last summer and by the House at the recent special session. Slight differences between the two houses have been compromised and the authors of the bill, Senator Burdette, New Mexico, and Representative Underhill, New York, announced yesterday that they hoped to obtain final congressional action and the presidential signature before Christmas.

Pensions of veterans are increased under the measure from \$50 to \$72 a month, widows' pensions from \$30 to \$50 and nurses' pensions from \$30 to \$50.

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POSTOFFICE PEOPLE ARE BUSY THESE DAYS



A peep into the parcel-post station at Twenty-second and Market streets disclosed the above scene of postal employees wading through a sea of Christmas packages of all sizes and description. Postmasters advise early mailing of gifts to insure their prompt delivery.

GRAND JURORS QUIZ WARDEN OF PRISON

Make Another Secret Trip to
Holmesburg—Keepers
Grilled, Too

CHECK UP ON CONDITIONS

Convicts of the Holmesburg County Prison were questioned by members of the Grand Jury who went there today to obtain further information concerning the institutions and also to check up on a number of statements made by William H. Heston, the warden, and several keepers who were questioned yesterday.

This is the second prison inspection made by the jury this week. Monday the jurors visited Moyamensing, where they made a thorough inspection of the place. Just as in the case of the Moyamensing trip, the jury made the journey to Holmesburg quietly and gave no hint of their plans in advance.

Heston and several keepers appeared before the Grand Jury yesterday to answer questions concerning the conditions of the institution.

It is thought a discussion also was held over the discoveries made by the Grand Jury on a recent visit to the prison. The jurors found two damp cells locked, and on the floor of one of them, it is said, certain apparatus was discovered which is believed to have been used formerly for applying the "spread-eagle" treatment.

Other topics suggested by and dilated upon by the inquisition were "no smoking" and "no talking" rules and the long footless prison imposed as a drastic form of punishment.

It was afterward learned that Warden Heston explained the regulations laid down by the Board of Prison Inspectors and could not do otherwise unless the rules were changed.

Dr. Elmer E. Ketter, the prison physician, whom a number of the reformed men have denounced in emphatic terms as an implacable foe of the inmates, was given to each of the fifty-five children. Expressions of delight created a riotous time as the children of the lost presented by "Santa Claus" were given to each of the fifty-five children.

Two tooth brushes, two tubes of tooth paste, a wash cloth, soap, a wooden mallet, a chocolate bar, fifty cents, a pair of socks, a pair of mittens, a box of cake, two writing pads, a box of pencils, woolen stockings, a hat, a pair of shoes, a pair of mittens, a sweater and a jar of almonds.

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Twelve-Year-Old Golfer Makes Nine Holes in 42

Pinchurst, N. C., Dec. 20.—Forbes Wilson, twelve-year-old son of Willie Wilson, York Harbor and Pinchurst golf professional, played the first half of the championship course in 42 here in a nine-hole match with John Peacock, Pinchurst pro. Young Wilson drove to green at the sixth hole, 168 yards, and ran down the putt for a 2.

MERCHANTS BOOM PROJECT FOR FAIR

Market St. Association Pledges
Help in Raising Fund of
\$25,000,000 or More

The Market Street Merchants' Association yesterday came out unequivocally for the Sesqui-Centennial. The directors adopted a resolution endorsing the fair and pledging assistance in raising not less than \$25,000,000.

Daniel Gimbel, president, said he believed the step was the most constructive one yet taken in behalf of the world exposition. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 15 to 1.

The resolution says that "as merchants we regard the opportunity offered in the Sesqui-Centennial as the greatest event that Philadelphia has ever had to promote its general interests."

The entire cost of \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 will be paid back in gate receipts and concessions, leaving many permanent buildings and improvements to the credit of Philadelphia, together with an inestimable amount of international good will that will attract new enterprises.

The stated meeting of the directors of the fair Association scheduled for yesterday was postponed indefinitely, and it is not likely that the members will be summoned until after the holidays.

Mrs. Edith W. Pierce last night broadcast a speech urging support of the fair project at the Gimbel Brothers' store.

The children had been gathered from the homes of poor families by the Salvation Army and other agencies.

The party literally took possession of the entire banquet floor of the hotel, where one surprise after another was being given to each of the fifty-five children.

More than 1000 members of the Shrine Club were present to see that nothing was lacking to assure happiness to the boys and girls.

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SHRINE CLUB HOST TO POOR CHILDREN

Many Little Cripples in Party
Which Was Royally Entertained at Adelphi

GIFTS A REAL SURPRISE

Fifty-five children, half of them little cripples, who had not expected much from Santa Claus, were treated to all the joys of a real Christmas as guests of the Shrine Club in Hotel Adelphi at noon today.

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HAL OF VICTORY TO COST \$4,000,000

Sponsors of Memorial Plan to
Keep Within That Figure for
Parkway Building

HOLD CONFERENCE TODAY

The cost of Victory Hall, raised as a memorial to the dead of valor in Philadelphia's war in all wars is not expected to exceed \$4,000,000. The building, which is to be erected on the Parkway between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, is to house activities of many varieties.

A meeting of the ten architectural firms who will compete for the honor of designing the memorial was held yesterday at the office of Dr. Warren P. Laird, the city's professional adviser. The architects endeavored to fix the cost of the building on a cubic-foot basis.

In advance of a conference between the County Commissioners and Dr. Laird, to be held today in City Hall, little was given out, but many details of the proposed plans were gleaned from authoritative sources.

The hall contest, which has been waged silently between proponents of a municipal theatre and of a municipal music hall in the building, has apparently settled in favor of the music auditorium. The municipal-theatre idea is held to be unfeasible, and it has been definitely determined to construct the largest auditorium in the city, which will be available for big musical events. Accordingly, special attention will be given to the acoustics.

It was said the plans contemplate several assembly halls of varying sizes, from 5000 to 6000 persons. A basement will be available for the parking of automobiles or for automobile shows.

The entrance to the building will open on a "Vestibule of Honor," a circular hall in which will be placed a number of the various wars, with a beautiful stairway leading to the floor which contains the several trophy rooms. Several halls, designated "Victory Rooms," will be available for big musical events. Accordingly, special attention will be given to the acoustics.

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